Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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CONTENTS

(Continned on following page)

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CONTENTS (Continued) Page

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ALMONDS AND APRICOTS HIT BY FROST IN IRAN

Mid-March frosts in northern and central Iran have reportedly caused serious damage in some of the principal almond and apricot producing areas.

MEXICAN COFFEE CROP REDUCED BY BAD WEATHER

Special very recent surveys indicate that adverse weather reduced Mexico's 1959-60 coffee crop more than estimated earlier. Cold weather and high winds in Veracruz (November) and Chiapas (December) caused heavy losses.

The fourth estimate (March 1960) of the Foreign Agricultural Service for the 1959-60 world coffee crop showed a total of 2,050,000 bags (132.276 lb. each) and an exportable crop of 1,600,000 for Mexico (see Foreign Crops and Markets World Summaries, March 31). Although this represented some decrease from the third estimate, it now appears that the Mexican crop will be even smaller.

RHODESIAN 1959 FLUE-CURED
TOBACCO EXPORTS SET RECORD

Exports of flue-cured tobacco from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland were at a record 149 million pounds in 1959. This was 27 percent larger than the 117 million shipped out in 1958, and 7 percent above the previous high of 139 million in 1956.

Exports to the United Kingdom, the major market, increased from 65 million pounds in 1958 to 82 million last year--a gain of 26 percent. Exports to Australia were 12 million pounds, compared with 11 million in 1958. Total purchases of Rhodesian flue-cured by Commonwealth countries last year were about 108 million pounds.

Major non-Commonwealth purchasers of Rhodesian flue-cured in 1959 included West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and the Belgian Congo. West Germany took 16 million pounds and the Netherlands 10 million. West Germany's takings were 43 percent larger than in 1958, but those of the Netherlands declined a little.

TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, exports by destination, 1957-1959

Destination	1957	1958	1959
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Commonwealth:			
United Kingdom	67,622	64,950	82,326
Australia	8,897	10,826	11,934
Hong Kong	1,786	1,947	3,715
Union of South Africa	3,025	2,466	3,651
Malaya	830	664	2,479
Other	2,910	2,711	3,744
Total Commonwealth	85,070	83,564	107,849
Non-Commonwealth:			
Germany, West	8,457	11,186	16,025
Netherlands	5,681	11,374	10,034
Belgium	5,357	3,531	6,163
Denmark	1,667	2,978	2,254
Belgian Congo	2,179	620	2,045
Norway	1,182	720	757
Sweden	518	246	728
French Africa	557	689	699
Other	3,337	1,827	2,751
Total Non-Commonwealth	28,935	33,171	41,456
Grand Total	114,005	116,735	149,305

Tobacco Intelligence (London).

THAI CIGARETTE SALES UP SLIGHTLY IN 1959

Sales of Thailand's domestic brands of cigarettes in 1959 rose about 2 percent from 1958.

There were big increases in sales of "Gold City" and "Samit," both of which contain a very high percentage of U. S. tobacco. These brands have been widely advertised by the Thai Tobacco Monopoly through a joint market development project undertaken by the U. S. tobacco trade, the monopoly, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Sales of "Gold City" totaled 188.2 million pieces last year--up 82 percent from 1958. "Samit" sales of 62.4 million were up 225 percent.

HONG KONG BOOSTS TOBACCO IMPORT DUTIES

On February 24, 1960, Hong Kong substantially increased its duties on imports of tobacco and tobacco products. The increases, 30 to 50 percent over the former rates, affected all categories of leaf and products.

Under the new tariff schedule, unstemmed leaf of U. S. origin containing 10 percent or more of moisture will be assessed a duty equivalent to U. S. $1.01 per pound; the former rate was 67 U.S. cents. For stemmed tobacco with similar moisture content the rate will now be $1.03, compared with 68 cents. Cigarettes of U.S. origin will now be assessed a duty of U. S. $1.42 per pound, compared with the former rate of $1.09.

TANGANYIKA BUILDS NEW CIGARETTE FACTORY

A new $4.2-million cigarette factory being built in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, is due for completion in January 1961. The new factory is expected to ease Tanganyika's difficulty in marketing domestic flue-cured tobacco. The only important tobacco factory now in Tanganyika is one in Songea that produces smoking mixtures.

Tanganyika is about the size of Texas and Oklahoma combined and has 9 million people who could easily be a market for over 1 billion reasonably priced cigarettes. The new factory is expected to supply this potential demand.

NEW ZEALAND SEARCHES FOR NEW MEAT MARKETS AS EARNINGS DROP

New Zealand's earnings on meat exports to all destinations dropped 15 percent during 1959. The decline was due to lower lamb prices in the United Kingdom, and to a decrease in beef shipments to the United Kingdom and the United States because of reduced production. Total earnings dropped from £ 84.6 million ($235 million) to £ 73.7 million ($205 million).

The New Zealand Meat Board, in cooperation with private interests, is now increasing its efforts to develop markets for lamb, mutton, and beef outside the United Kingdom and the United States. The Meat Board now has the power to buy and sell New Zealand meat on its own as part of a program to develop and maintain new export markets.

The principal obstacle to development of new markets is inadequate shipping facilities. Japanese, Dutch, and Greek lines have shown increased interest in transporting New Zealand meats, but their present capacity is limited. The Greek lines are interested in buying New Zealand mutton for dollars and taking it back to Greece. Prospects for marketing mutton in Japan have also been encouraging. However, until August 31, 1960, the New Zealand Conference Shipping Lines have exclusive rights for the shipping of New Zealand meat to North America and Europe, and this will limit any immediate development of new markets.

Through January, only relatively small amounts of New Zealand lamb from this season's kill had gone to the United Kingdom. However, slaughter is now in full swing and shipments are expected to increase during the next few months. U.K. prices are expected to hold up well and the U.K. market should continue to be attractive to New Zealand.

New Zealand boneless beef shipments to the United States between October 1959 and February 1960 were about one-third below the same period a year earlier. This was mainly due to seasonally low slaughter. These shipments are also expected to increase in coming months, along with the usual seasonal increase in slaughter.

On February 1, 1960, the Conference Lines raised the freight rate on boneless carton beef to the United States from 2.6 to 2.8 cents per pound (net weight). The rate to the United Kingdom was increased from 1.8 to 1.9 cents per pound.

COLOMBIA PLANS DEVELOPMENT OF MEAT EXPORT INDUSTRY

Special attention is being given to the establishment of canning factories and cattle slaughter plants in Colombia with a view to exporting meats and thus improving the country's foreign trade position. The Colombian Cattlemen's Association has begun talks with the Ministries of Agriculture and Development, the Planning Department, the Bank of the Republic, the Council of Economic Policy, and others to establish facilities to make exports possible.

Meat exports present one of the best opportunities for Colombia to increase its foreign earnings. At present, however, most of the Colombian Slaughterhouses cannot produce meat to meet the inspection standards of the United States and some other importing countries. Also, they cannot use byproducts efficiently. Since Colombia has foot-and-mouth disease, imports to the United States would be limited to canned and fully cured meats.

AUSTRALIA PERMITS MEAT IMPORTS

Australia will now permit imports of beef casings, bacon, hams, and other meats as a part of a general trade liberalization program. However, imports are not expected to be large in view of the low prices and large production of most meat products in that country. Quarantine restrictions prevent entry from countries having foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, and hog cholera.

Pork prices are relatively high in Australia, and some pork might be imported from cholera-free areas. During mid-February, the wholesale price of light hog carcasses in Sydney was the equivalent of 33.5 to 36.5 cents per pound.

YUGOSLAV LARD IMPORTS CEASE

Yugoslav imports of lard have ceased as a result of a rapid expansion of pork and lard production in 1959. Output will probably rise further in 1960, as hog slaughter is expected to be up 21 percent from the high level of 1959. In line with increased supplies, the Government has reduced the price of lard 18 percent to about 20 cents per pound.

Yugoslavia imported 21 million pounds of lard in January-September 1959 with the United States the largest supplier. U.S. exports of lard to Yugoslavia in 1959 were 7.8 million pounds, compared with 15.5 million in 1958. There have been no shipments since June 1959.

CUBAN SUGAR SOLD TO COMMUNIST CHINA

The Cuban Sugar Institute announced March 24 the sale of 80,000 Spanish long tons (91,000 short tons) of sugar to Mainland China at 2.91 cents per pound, f.o.b. Cuba, for delivery in April and May 1960.

COFFEE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CUBA

The American Coffee Federation is sponsoring an international conference of 20 coffee-producing countries to be held in Havana, Cuba, during the last 2 weeks of April. The purpose of the conference is to open negotiations for extension of the present International Coffee Agreement.

The Coffee Federation is composed of the following coffee-producing countries in Latin America: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. In addition to the Federation, several representatives from other coffee-producing and consuming countries have been invited to attend the conference.

COLOMBIA CAMPAIGNS FOR WHEAT EXPANSION

Colombia has launched a $1.8-million campaign to build up its wheat industry and reduce its dependency on wheat imports.

Funds for the program (12 million pesos) are the proceeds of a development quota fund obtained by a special tax on imports. The present tax on wheat imports is 10 centavos per kilo (40.6 cents per bushel).

The program will stress development of new varieties, seed improvement, and better marketing organization--including construction of storage and drying facilities, now inadequate. The Agricultural Credit Bank will provide medium-term loans, selected seeds, fertilizers, and farm machinery with appropriate amortization terms.

Colombia's wheat imports now amount to about 125,000 metric tons per year. This is about half of national consumption. While imported wheat generally has a much higher protein content than the homegrown product, better-quality wheats have been developed in Colombia and are now being grown experimentally.

MOZAMBIQUE TO PERMIT IMPORTS OF DOLLAR WHEAT AND OTHER ITEMS

Mozambique has announced that it will now license imports of a number of agricultural and non-agricultural items from the dollar area. The move follows Portugal's recent decision to liberalize imports from the United States and Canada.

The following dollar imports may now be licensed, if their import does not interfere with local industry (as set forth in the Boletim Oficial on September 16, 1959): Wheat, cereals other than wheat, hops, powdered milk, condensed milk, plants and seeds, leaf tobacco, "foodstuffs necessary to complement those produced in the Province of Mozambique," malt for brewers, vegetable extracts for soft drink manufacture, and hydrogenated oil to make margarine.

Previously, specified items from the dollar area could only be imported if they cost less than comparable items from the sterling area, and applications for licenses had to be made to the Governor General of Mozambique. Now, permits may be granted directly by the Foreign Commerce Board.

In 1958, for the first time in many years, the United States became a supplier of wheat to Mozambique. Imports of U.S. wheat that year amounted to about 16,000 metric tons--slightly more than half of Mozambique's total wheat imports. Preliminary U.S. export statistics indicate that 1959 exports were at about the same level.

MEXICAN WINTER VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS, MARCH 1-15

The following winter vegetables from the West Coast of Mexico crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona, during the period March 1-15, 1960 (in thousands of pounds): green corn, 36; cucumbers, 206; eggplant, 223; onions, 12; peas, 1,139; peppers, 1,708; squash, 31; string beans, 148; tomatoes, 28,689; watermelons, 95; and yam bean roots, .4.

AUSTRALIA'S DRIED VINE-FRUIT PACK DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1959

The Australian 1959 dried vine-fruit pack was not quite as large as the 1958 pack.

Production of sultanas during the 1959 season amounted to 74,900 short tons, a 3-percent reduction from the 77,200-ton 1958 pack. The Lexia raisin pack showed a decline of nearly 7 percent, falling from 9,400 tons in 1958 to 8,700 tons in 1959. Dried currant production of 12,400 tons in 1959 was down 6 percent from 13,200 tons in 1958.

VINE FRUITS, DRIED: Australia, supply and distribution, 1958 and 1959

Item	1958			1959		
	Sultanas	Raisins	Currants	Sultanas	Raisins	Currants
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Beginning stocks, Jan. 1	6,100	1,100	2,600	3,100	1,600	3,000
Production	77,200	9,400	13,200	74,900	8,700	12,400
Total supply	83,300	10,500	15,800	78,000	10,300	15,400
Exports	69,650	5,800	9,100	60,800	4,200	7,600
Domestic consumption	10,550	3,100	3,700	11,200	4,800	4,200
Ending stocks, Dec. 31	3,100	1,600	3,000	6,000	1,300	3,600
Total distribution	83,300	10,500	15,800	78,000	10,300	15,400

Dried vine-fruit exports during 1959 declined from the previous year; the smaller harvests and increased domestic consumption accounted for most of the decline. Exports of sultanas last year amounted to 60,781 short tons, compared with 68,658 tons in 1958.

Exports of raisins dropped sharply from 5,771 tons in 1958 to 4,208 tons in 1959--largely because of increased domestic marketings. Currant exports were also smaller, declining from 9,105 tons to 7,597 tons.

VINE FRUITS, DRIED: Australian exports, by country of destination, calendar years 1958 and 1959

Destination	Sultanas		Raisins		Currants	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
United States	---	---	---	12	41	---
Canada	18,004	17,762	1,256	1,084	2,685	2,354
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	227	64	16	8	---	8
Denmark	277	12	---	---	---	---
Germany, West	6,757	579	---	---	---	---
Ireland	372	1,195	---	10	---	28
Netherlands	697	6	---	---	28	---
United Kingdom	33,396	33,751	2,918	2,477	4,490	3,561
Ceylon	725	449	1/	1/	165	144
Jamaica	324	538	1	---	142	319
Japan	1,643	908	4	---	---	---
New Zealand	6,086	3,833	1,533	596	1,103	728
Other	1,150	1,684	43	21	451	455
Total	69,658	60,781	5,771	4,208	9,105	7,597

1/ Less than 1 ton.

GREECE HAS DIFFICULTIES MARKETING 1959 RAISINS AND CURRANTS

Greece has encountered difficulties in marketing its 1959 raisin and currant packs; however, recent developments on the U. K. market have improved prospects for currant exports during the remainder of this marketing season.

Greek raisin exports from the 1959 pack were estimated at 31,000 to 33,000 short tons through mid-February by the Union of Sultanas Growers Cooperatives (KSOS). In the face of an extremely slack export market, Greek prices in the United Kingdom have continued to decline. The KSOS is pressing the Greek Government to buy the 11,000-ton stock of raisins which growers are still holding. The government has already purchased 22,000 short tons of 1959 sultanas out of a raisin crop of 69,000 tons.

Greek currant exports--released by the Autonomous Currant Organization (ASO)--for the period September 1, 1959, through February 20, 1960, totaled about 39,000 short tons, compared with 49,000 tons exported during the corresponding 1958-59 period. Exports have lagged behind earlier estimates; however, the U. K. market has recently shown new interest in Greek currants and prices have been gradually improving. Earlier this season the Greek Government purchased 22,000 short tons of currants; exporters are reportedly acquiring some of these stocks to meet the reviving demand.

U. S. FEED GRAIN EXPORT RISE CONTINUING

U. S. feed grain exports in 1959-60 are currently forecast at about 12,000,000 metric tons, or 10 percent above the 10,900,000 tons exported in 1958-59. There would have to be an unusually strong upturn in May and June exports to bring about any increase of any more than 10 percent.

Shipments of U. S. feed grains abroad have nearly doubled since 1956-57, when 6,372,800 metric tons were exported. Gains were particularly high when they amounted to 32.4 percent and 29.1 percent in 1957-58 and 1958-59, respectively.

The 1959 summer drought in Western Europe considerably reduced forage crops and pastures. As a result, exports of U.S. feed grains to 7 European countries were unusually high during the first 5 months of the 1959-60 season. They declined about the time the St. Lawrence Seaway closed early in December. Since December, total U.S. feed grain exports have demonstrated more strength than have the shipments to Western Europe, indicating a strong demand in other markets. Port congestion at Rotterdam beginning late in December and not cleared up until last month was a factor in the decline in exports. Another factor was the sale of Mexican corn in Europe.

Total feed grain exports increased during February 1960, but this upturn did not continue into March; a decline usually occurs in March and extends well into April. Renewed demand is expected in May and June. Reopening of the St. Lawrence Seaway may help exports the rest of the season.

The annual rate of increase in U.S. feed grain exports appears to be slowing, partly because of larger European feed grain crops and greater competition from other countries, mainly in the Southern Hemisphere and the Middle East. However, drought in those regions should reduce their competitiveness in 1960-61.

FEED GRAINS 1/: U. S. total exports, July-February 1958-59 and 1959-60, with percentage change

Month	1958-59	1959-60	Percentage change
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July	948,382	1,207,065	27.3
August	843,940	1,075,991	27.5
September	833,142	902,469	8.3
October	778,245	781,463	0.4
November	889,670	1,081,024	21.5
December	1,051,700	1,130,595	7.5
January	1,009,954	796,749	-21.6
Feburary	825,290	2/ 875,000	6.0
Total	7,180,323	7,850,356	9.3

1/ Corn, grain sorghums, barley, and oats. 2/ Partially estimated.

FEED GRAINS 1/: U. S. exports to 7 European countries 2/, July-February 1958-59 and 1959-60, with percentage change

Month	1958-59	1959-60	Percentage change
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July	536,234	851,662	58.8
August	321,185	556,039	73.1
September	444,850	628,863	41.4
October	516,483	618,028	19.7
November	655,212	904,854	38.1
December	874,994	826,807	-5.5
January	837,923	541,541	-35.4
February	632,320	3/ 585,000	-7.5
Total	4,819,201	5,512,793	14.4

1/ Corn, grain sorghums, barley and oats. 2/ United Kingdom, Netherlands, West Germany, Belgium, Denmark, France, and Sweden. 3/ Partially estimated.

CONDITIONS UNFAVORABLE FOR PORTUGAL'S GRAIN CROPS

Generally unfavorable weather in Portugal throughout February hindered field work and adversely affected growth of grains. River flooding has caused complete destruction over extensive lowland areas, and growth in the uplands is generally delayed for the season.

Discoloration of the plants from excessive soil moisture is reported from some parts, although some adequately fertilized fields are said to look good. Weed infestation is unusually high.

IRAN'S WHEAT OUTLOOK BELOW AVERAGE

The outlook is poor for Iran's 1960 wheat crop. Continued dryness has caused considerable crop deterioration, and it is expected that the outturn on dry lands of southern Iran will be small. Recent rains throughout northern and central Iran have appreciably improved the outlook for crops of those areas. However, moisture is sufficient to carry crops for only a limited time and more rain will be needed soon to ensure normal outturns.

THAILAND PLANS MODEST GAIN IN RICE OUTPUT

The Thai Government recently disclosed a program to increase rice production in the next 6 years in order to maintain an annual exportable surplus of 1,200,000 metric tons of milled rice. The yearly gain will be about 167,000 tons for the needs of a population increase of around 500,000. The additional output will be achieved by improved irrigation and greater use of fertilizers.

SAUDI ARABIANS PROFIT FROM CHANGES IN MONETARY AND TRADE POLICY

Jidda bankers report an appreciable increase in the volume of import credits extended to Saudi Arabian merchants who have been taking advantage of monetary and trade policy revisions made in that country early this year.

The riyal, devalued from SR 3.75 per $1 to a new official rate of SR 4.5 per $1, now enjoys 100 percent backing in gold and convertible currencies. At the same time, all imports have now been made license-free and quota-free (although existing licenses for which irrevocable letters of credit have already been established are still valid).

A direct 20-percent subsidy is being paid to importers of cereals, sheep, milk, vegetable oils, ghee, medicines, and drugs. This is designed not only to absorb the budgetary gain resulting from the currency devaluation, but also to minimize price-raising on these items which now cost 20 percent more to import at the new exchange rate. There is some concern in trade circles that the country may be glutted with imported flour and grains by mid-year.

CANADIAN WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR

Canadian wheat and flour exports during July-January 1959-60 totaled 170 million bushels, approximately the same as a year earlier. Wheat exports were 147.7 million bushels, down about 2.7 percent. Flour exports were 22.3 million bushels, up about 2.8 percent.

Wheat exports to Peru, France, and Italy increased by 2 million bushels each. Another 6 million bushels were exported to Poland, Iraq, and Algeria; these countries took none during the same period a year earlier. These gains, however, were more than offset by reductions of 8 million bushels to the United Kingdom, 3 million bushels to the Netherlands, and 2 million bushels to West Germany.

Flour exports to Ghana increased by 580,000 bushels, while those to the United Kingdom and Japan increased 400,000 bushels each. In contrast, less flour went to Colombia and Venezuela.

Estimated February exports of wheat and flour are slightly below the 21.7 million bushels exported in February 1959. Total wheat and flour exports during August-February 1959-60 (the first 7 months of the Canadian marketing year) are estimated to be approximately 171 million bushels, or about 3.1 percent more than the 166 million exported during the same period a year earlier.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canadian exports by country of destination
July-January 1958-59 and July-January 1959-60

Country of destination	July-January 1958-59			July-January 1959-60		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	2,159	958	3,117	547	826	1,373
British West Indies	6	2,928	2,934	1	3,131	3,132
Central America	102	1,119	1,221	78	1,089	1,167
Colombia	--	285	285	808	3	811
Cuba	1	189	190	1	128	129
Peru	598	19	617	2,723	4	2,727
Venezuela	1,280	930	2,210	2,321	3	2,324
Others	357	867	1,224	464	850	1,314
Total	4,503	7,295	11,798	6,943	6,034	12,977
Europe:						
Austria	1,772	--	1,772	1,901	--	1,901
Belgium-Luxembourg	7,319	215	7,534	7,212	58	7,270
France	369	--	369	2,769	--	2,769
Germany, West	19,652	--	19,652	17,967	--	17,967
Ireland	2,977	--	2,977	1,038	--	1,038
Italy	445	1	446	2,142	--	2,142
Netherlands	9,050	6	9,056	5,540	3	5,543
Norway	2,176	--	2,176	1,865	--	1,865
Poland	--	--	--	2,850	--	2,850
Switzerland	3,821	--	3,821	4,734	--	4,734
United Kingdom	55,204	7,915	63,119	47,805	8,276	56,081
Others	1,008	89	1,097	1,544	77	1,621
Total	103,793	8,226	112,019	97,367	8,414	105,781
Asia:						
Ceylon	--	882	882	--	772	772
China, Mainland	1,643	--	1,643	--	--	--
India	6,665	2	6,667	5,940	--	5,940
Iraq	--	--	--	2,033	--	2,003
Japan	23,358	310	23,668	23,038	746	23,784
Pakistan	2,327	--	2,327	3,139	--	3,139
Philippines	766	2,880	3,646	690	2,667	3,357
Others	1,246	1,022	2,268	1,515	1,723	3,238
Total	36,005	5,096	41,101	36,355	5,908	42,263
Africa:						
Algeria	--	--	--	1,506	--	1,506
Ghana	--	425	425	--	1,007	1,007
Union of South Africa	1,404	--	1,404	2,789	--	2,789
Others	202	605	807	112	936	1,048
Total	1,606	1,030	2,636	4,407	1,943	6,350
Oceania	--	7	7	--	12	12
Unspecified 2/	2,241	--	2,241	2,677	--	2,677
World total	148,148	21,654	169,802	147,749	22,311	170,060

1/ Grain equivalent. 2/ Included seed wheat.

Source: Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

TWO-THIRDS OF BURMA'S 1959 RICE
EXPORTS WENT TO 4 COUNTRIES

Sixty-six percent of 1959 rice exports from Burma, leading world rice exporter, went to 4 countries--Indonesia, India, Ceylon, and Pakistan. Takings by other Asian destinations (Singapore and Malaya, the Ryukyus, Japan, and Hong Kong) brought the Asian total up to 83 percent. Africa accounted for 5 percent, while the U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and the Middle East each took about 4 percent.

Of the 37,469,000 cwt. (100 pounds per cwt.) of rice, excluding bran, exported in 1959, approximately 25.4 million cwt. were white rice; 10 million cwt., boiled rice; and 2.1 million cwt., broken rice. Rice bran exports, at 2,491,000 cwt., were to the following countries (1,000 cwt.): United Kingdom, 1,254; Singapore, 654; the Netherlands, 329; Malaya, 157; Belgium, 91; and others 6.

BURMA: Rice exports, excluding bran, by country of destination, averages 1936-40 and 1951-55, annual 1956-59

Country of destination	Average 1936-40	Average 1951-55	1956	1957	1958	1959 1/
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Arabian Peninsula	574	881	1,495	1,001	519	1,231
Ceylon	8,070	4,791	5,438	6,577	4,186	4,885
China, Mainland	1,168	473	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	2/	393	803	33	114	370
India	35,370	7,756	6,349	10,742	8,606	6,655
Indonesia	1,247	3,695	6,568	4,588	5,149	8,862
Japan	3/2,328	4,750	5,879	2,339	1,119	589
Malaya	5,082	2,225	3,941	2,431	2,951	4,291
Pakistan	2/	0	2,735	3,268	3,082	4,448
Ryukyu Islands	2/	427	671	681	448	712
Soviet Union	2/	608	2,627	2,240	0	676
East Europe	2/	461	1,962	1,757	1,518	283
West Germany	2/	99	152	144	76	291
Netherlands	2/	201	136	0	0	512
United Kingdom	1,279	537	384	263	42	120
Other West Europe	4,974	317	749	550	665	1,164
Mauritius	608	632	724	1,143	1,136	1,226
Africa	188	399	249	351	114	708
British West Indies	773	41	0	267	89	0
Other countries	3,437	411	243	278	1,276	246
Total	65,042	29,097	41,105	38,653	31,090	37,469

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not separately reported. 3/ To Japan, Korea, and Taiwan.

1960 CHILEAN LENTIL EXPORT ESTIMATES REVISED DOWNWARD

Chile's lentil exports from this season's harvest are now expected to reach only 10,000 tons, instead of nearly 16,000 tons as previously reported (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 14). The latest estimate includes 5,300 tons already shipped in January and February.

The 1960 production estimate remains at 17,600 tons; the export quota for small lentils is still 2,000 tons; and the U. S. import embargo remains as reported earlier.

FRANCE EXPECTED TO BUY MORE OILSEEDS OUTSIDE THE FRANC ZONE

French imports of oilseeds from outside the franc zone are expected to increase substantially later this year because of the reduced 1959-60 West African peanut crop.

In recent years France has imported around 400,000 short tons of peanuts from the former French territories in West Africa, but commercial peanut production there is off sharply this year (575,000 tons against 675,000 tons, shelled basis, in 1958-59). Thus, if the mills in the producing territories crush the normal 300,000 tons, only about 275,000 tons will be available for export to France during 1960. This would be 120,000 tons below French imports from French West Africa in 1959 and 150,000 tons below 1958.

In 1959, the French turned to Nigeria for additional supplies of peanuts from the 1958 crop to supplement the smaller purchases in French West Africa. This year, with Nigeria's 1959 crop down sharply, and stocks greatly reduced (see Foreign Crops and Markets November 28, 1960), it is probable that oilseed purchases will be made elsewhere.

In addition, the domestic rapeseed crop in 1960, to be harvested in late spring and early summer, is not expected to be much larger than the reduced outturn of 1959. Production this year is forecast at 150,000 short tons, against 132,000 tons in 1959 and 200,000 tons in 1958.

Representatives of the Societe Interprofessionnelle des Oleagineux Fluides Alimentaires, a semi-official organization controlling imports of edible oils and oilseeds, have reportedly contracted for around 100,000 tons of Canadian rapeseed, but delivery dates are not known. Also S.I.O.F.A. officials have expressed interest in purchasing sizable quantities of U.S. peanuts from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks.

Soybean imports in calendar 1960 are expected to reach 165,000 short tons (5.5 million bushels), compared with only 88,290 tons (2.9 million bushels) in 1959 and 62,275 tons (2.1 million bushels) in 1958. Last year, 94 percent of the soybean imports came from the United States, and in 1958, 80 percent.

FINLAND'S IMPORTS OF RUSSIAN OILCAKE AND MEAL TO CONTINUE LARGE

According to the Finnish-Soviet 1960 trade agreement, Finland is to import 49,600 short tons of oilcakes and meals from the U.S.S.R. in 1960, the same as the 1959 quota. The quantities according to kind, with comparable figures for 1959 in parentheses, are as follows: soybean 20,000 (13,000); cottonseed 12,000 (15,000); sunflower seed 10,000 (12,000); and linseed 3,000 (5,000).

The Soviet Union supplied virtually all of Finland's total oilcake and meal imports of 55,273 short tons in 1959 and 63,377 tons in 1958. While in 1955 and 1956 the United States and Western Germany supplied most of the soybean meal, the Soviet Union supplied practically all of the reduced imports of that meal in 1958 and 1959.

Imports of soybeans have supplemented Finland's supplies of cakes and meals. The principal supplier during the last 5 years has been Communist China, with the United States the only other source. However, no U.S. soybeans have been imported since 1957.

SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN MEAL: Finland, imports by country of origin, 1955-59

Year	Soybeans			Soybean meal			
	Mainland China	United States	Total	U.S.S.R.	United States	West Germany	Total 1/
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1955	568.9	2/ 417.5	986.4	11.7	3/ 9.7	4/ 11.1	37.3
1956	574.2	5/ 206.0	780.2	10.0	6/ 12.1	23.2	46.4
1957	1,247.9	7/ 515.2	1,763.1	10.7	---	.6	16.9
1958	801.2	---	801.2	6.5	---	---	6.5
1959	8/ 474.7	---	474.7	14.0	---	9/ 2.2	16.2

1/ Including small quantities from the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden. 2/ Purchased partially through the United Kingdom. 3/ Direct from the United States. 4/ Partially through Sweden and Switzerland. 5/ Through the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. 6/ Partially through Canada. 7/ Through the United Kingdom. 8/ Small quantities through the Soviet Union and the Netherlands. 9/ Emergency purchase when signing of trade agreement with Soviet Union was delayed.

Compiled from official Finnish sources.

After heavy imports of oilcake and meal in 1955 and 1956 (99,000 and 148,000 tons, respectively), and difficulty in exporting increasing butter surpluses, the Finnish Government required feed importers and distributors in the spring of 1957 to hold about 28,000 tons of feed concentrates in their warehouses as emergency stocks. At the same time, retail prices were raised by reducing the government subsidy, and imports of all feed items were drastically restricted.

While the emergency stock has now been reduced, the government is reluctant to release the remaining quantity as it might thwart efforts to keep down surplus butter production. Trade sources believe that some 4,000 tons may be released--in combination with shipments due to arrive from the Soviet Union--to relieve the present shortage of feed concentrates which presumably will continue until animals can be pastured in early June.

In addition to imports domestic production of oilcake and meal from domestic and imported raw materials totaled 45,000 tons in 1957 and 35,000 tons in 1958. The one vegetable oil factory operating in Finland is now processing 33,000 tons of Chinese soybeans supplied by the U.S.S.R. With the exception of 5,000 to 6,000 tons of meal that may be retained by the company in payment for the work, the oil and meal will be returned to the Soviet Union.

EUROPEAN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE FOR 1959-60 LOWERED 11 PERCENT

Europe's 1959-60 production of edible olive oil is now estimated at 1,135,000 short tons, 11 percent less than the December estimate of 1,278,600 tons. This latest estimate includes 530,000 tons for Spain, a reduction of almost 16 percent from the estimate of December 1959; 330,000 tons for Italy--down 9 percent; 172,000 tons for Greece--down 6 percent; and 100,000 tons for Portugal--down 9 percent.

RHODESIAS-NYASALAND 1959 TRADE AT RECORD LEVEL

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland's favorable "visible" trade balance of $122.4 million in 1959 was an alltime high. In 1958, there was a deficit of $42 million. Exports in 1959 were valued at a record $523.3 million, excluding $19.3 million from gold exports. Imports were only $420.3 million, the lowest since 1955.

The United States supplied 4.5 percent of the value of imports last year, compared with 4.9 percent in 1958 and 5.9 percent in 1957. Exports to the United States last year made up 5.4 percent of total Federation exports, compared with 7.6 percent in 1958 and 10.2 percent in 1957.

Aside from the lower level of imports, the sharp improvement in trade was highlighted by an increase in the volume and price of copper exports and a record tobacco crop of 231 million pounds.

COTTON CONSUMPTION UP SLIGHTLY IN CHILE

Cotton consumption by Chilean mills was at a slightly higher rate during the first 6 months (August-January) of the current season than in the same period of 1958-59.

Consumer demand for cotton goods is stronger, and total consumption this season is likely to be at least 5 percent above the 55,000 bales (500 pounds gross) used in 1958-59. The expected rise would reverse the downtrend in consumption since 1954. However, the prospect of an increase is offset to some degree by the fact that general wage increases early in 1959 have been accompanied by increases in living costs.

Chile's cotton imports in 1959-60 are also expected to be somewhat larger than 1958-59 imports of 55,000 bales. The United States is filling a substantial portion of Chile's import needs this season, whereas in 1958-59 larger quantities were imported from other countries, particularly Peru. U. S. export statistics show that 13,000 bales were exported to Chile during August-January 1959-60, compared with 1,000 bales a year earlier.

On March 1, prices for U. S. cotton, c.i.f. Valparaiso, were: GM 1-1/8 inches, 34.20 U. S. cents per pound; SM 1-1/8 inches, 32.52 cents; and M 1-1/8 inches, 30.37 cents per pound.

Some increase in cotton stocks is likely this season since only about 10,000 bales were on hand August 1, 1959. Cotton is grown in Chile only on an experimental basis, with less than 500 bales produced annually.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA HARVESTS LESS COTTON THAN LAST YEAR

The 1959-60 cotton crop in British East Africa (Uganda, Tanganyika, and Kenya) is currently estimated at 444,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is 10 percent below the postwar record of 491,000 bales in 1958-59, but 5 percent above average annual production of 424,000 bales in the past 5 seasons.

All of this year's decrease was in Uganda, where acreage declined 22 percent-from 2,014,000 acres in 1958-59 to about 1,565,000 this season. Dry weather at planting time (May-July) and producer dissatisfaction with prices received for last year's crop were major factors contributing to the acreage reduction. The Ugandan crop is estimated at 262,000 bales, down 22 percent from the 334,000 bales produced in 1958-59.

Support prices to Uganda producers for the 1959-60 crop are equivalent to roughly 21.8 U. S. cents per pound, lint basis, for S-47 variety and 22.1 cents for BP 52, compared with the 1958-59 support prices of 21.3 and 21.6 cents, respectively. The BP 52 variety compares with U. S. Strict Middling 1-1/8 inches in quality.

Tanganyika's 1959-60 crop is estimated at 168,000 bales, up 17 percent from last season's crop of 143,000, but Kenya's crop of 14,000 bales is about equal to 1958-59 production.

Heavy cotton exports from British East Africa in 1958-59 greatly reduced stocks--from 95,000 bales on August 1, 1958 to about 20,000 on July 31, 1959. This, along with the reduction in Uganda's current crop, will result in a substantial decline in cotton available for export this season. Exports were a record 563,000 bales in 1958-59.

Exports during the first 4 months (August-November) of 1959-60 were 83,000 bales, only a little more than half the 164,000 bales exported in the same months of 1958-59. Principal buyers of British East African cotton are usually West Germany, India, Japan, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom.

Cotton consumption in British East Africa has totaled about 2,000 bales annually in recent years.

TRADE AMONG EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES UP SHARPLY IN 1959

Total 1959 imports by the six European Common Market countries (France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) rose to $24.1 billion. This was a 5-percent increase from $22.9 billion in 1958.

The increase was the result of 19-percent rise in "inter-Six" trade (from $6.8 billion to $8.1 billion); imports from the rest of the world, taken as a whole, declined slightly.

On the export side, total shipments of the Common Market came to $25.2 billion--an increase of 10 percent from 1958 exports of $22.7 billion. The 19-percent rise in exports of "the Six" to each other was accompanied by a 7-percent increase in exports to the rest of the world.

Common Market imports from the United States declined 10 percent (from $2.8 billion to $2.5 billion), but U. S. imports from the Common Market jumped 43 percent (from $1.7 billion to $2.4 billion).

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON UP IN DECEMBER

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through U. S. ports were 75,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December 1959--up 79 percent from the 42,000 bales transshipped in November, but slightly below the 76,000 bales in December 1958. Total transshipments of 486,000 bales during the first 5 months (August-December) of this season were 15 percent larger than the 421,000 bales transshipped in the corresponding period of 1958. (Continued on following page)

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Principal destinations of Mexican cotton transshipments during August-December 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 96,000 bales (14,000); West Germany 89,000 (107,000); France 72,000 (8,000); United Kingdom 42,000 (61,000); Italy 39,000 (69,000); Netherlands 31,000 (18,000); Switzerland 24,000 (19,000); Belgium 21,000 (46,000); Chile 15,000 (2,000); Australia 11,000 (17,000); and Canada 11,000 (12,000).

U. S. ports through which most of the Mexican transshipments moved in the August-December 1959 period, were: Brownsville 448,000; San Diego 19,000; Oakland 5,000; Los Angeles 4,000; Houston 2,000; Long Beach 2,000; and Galveston 2,000.